

As Jesus assures us in today's Gospel: "Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me." The revelation of the mystery of God-with-us is not incidental to that human experience. It gives light and direction to the struggle we call the human condition. Religious faith and faith-based values are not peripheral to the human enterprise. Our history, the history of mankind, is told in part in terms of our search for and response to the wisdom of God.

Religious faith has long been a cornerstone of the American experience. From the Mayflower Compact, which begins "In the name of God, Amen," to our Declaration of Independence, we hear loud echoes of our faith in God. It finds expression in our deep-seated conviction that we have unalienable rights from "Nature and Nature's God."

Thomas Jefferson stated that the ideals and ideas that he set forth in the Declaration of Independence were not original with him, but were the common opinion of his day. In a letter dated May 8, 1825, to Henry Lee, former governor of Virginia, Jefferson writes that the Declaration of Independence is "intended to be an expression of the American mind and to give to that expression the proper tone and spirit."

George Washington, after whom this city is named, was not the first, but perhaps was the most prominent, American political figure to highlight the vital part religion must play in the well-being of the nation. His often-quoted Farewell Address reminds us that we cannot expect national prosperity without morality, and morality cannot be sustained without religious principles.

Morality and ethical considerations cannot be divorced from their religious antecedents. What we do and how we act, our morals and ethics, follow on what we believe. The religious convictions of a people sustain their moral decisions.

What is religion's place in public life? As our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, tells us in his first encyclical letter, "Deus Caritas Est" (God Is Love): "[f]or her part, the Church, as the social expression of Christian faith, has a proper independence and is structured on the basis of her faith as a community which the State must recognize. The two spheres are distinct, yet always inter-related" (DCE 28). Politics, law and faith are mingled because believers are also citizens. Church and state are home to the very same people.

The place of religion and religious conviction in public life is precisely to sustain those values that make possible a common good that is more than just temporary political expediency. Without a value system rooted in morality and ethical integrity, there is the very real danger that human choices will be motivated solely by personal convenience and gain.

To speak out against racial discrimination, social injustice or threats to the dignity of life is not to force values upon society, but rather to call our society to its own, long-accepted, moral principles and commitment to defend basic human rights, which is the function of law.

Not only did Thomas Jefferson subscribe to the proposition that all are created equal, but his writings indicate that he extended the logic of that statement. All people are obliged to a code of morality that rests on the very human nature which is the foundation for our human dignity and equality. Jefferson recognizes no distinction between public and private morality. In a letter dated August 28, 1789, to James Madison, who later became the fourth president of our country, Jefferson wrote: "I know but one code of mo-

rality for all, whether acting singly or collectively."

Perhaps nowhere is the relationship of values, religious faith, public policy and the application of the law more deeply rooted in its historic expression than here in our nation's capital. Here is the place where our first president, George Washington, and the first Catholic bishop in our country, John Carroll, recognized so very early on in the life of our country the need to respect, honor and support the understanding that the goals of governance and the expression of faith-based morality mingle and overlap. At the same time, each was respectful of the prerogatives of the other, and both were mindful that all the voices needed to be heard.

In the end, the goal of public policy, and its application and interpretation, must be not what we can do but what we ought to do; not what we have the ability to achieve, but what in our hearts, in our conscience and in our souls we know we must do.

As believers, our hope for a better world is rooted in our faith that God will help us make this happen. Faith is the source of our perennial optimism and our social activism and involvement. If we work and work hard enough, God will be with us to bring about that world of peace, justice, understanding, wisdom, kindness, respect and love that we call His kingdom coming to be on earth.

Our prayer today is that our American democratic society will continue to be a flowering plant connected to the vine with roots sunk deep into the rich soil of our national identity, spiritual experience and faith convictions. May our religious faith, as a foundational part of our national experience, continue to nurture and sustain each branch of our society so that by its very connectedness to the vine it can blossom and flourish.

Thank you.●

REMEMBERING LARRY TICE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my colleagues in the Senate the story of an awful tragedy that took place in Weirton, WV. Larry Tice, a steelworker at the former Weirton Steel now called Mittal Steel's Weirton Plant took his own life earlier this year after being overwhelmed with a misplaced feeling of failure.

Larry spent decades in Weirton Steel's hot mill before he was transitioned to the tin mill in Mittal's reorganization and shrinking of its operations in Weirton. At its height, Weirton Steel employed 14,000—nearly everyone in a town of roughly 25,000. Twenty years ago employment was approximately 7,000, and today the company employs less than 2,000 people in a town that has shrunk to fewer than 20,000 people. Weirton is a town that had been built around the plant, and the plant served as the town's economic engine for nearly 100 years. Weirton was and is known for its world-class steelmaking.

Mr. Tice was a hard-working veteran at Weirton Steel. There had never been a doubt as to where Larry would work when he was growing up. He, like so many others, had been raised to believe if they worked hard, there would always be a job that included a living wage, competitive benefits, and a guaranteed pension. Larry's father, uncles,

and cousins had all worked at the mill. Larry worked there his whole life after signing up after high school graduation in 1973. Just before his death, his job was in jeopardy, many of his benefits diminished, and his pension had all but disappeared.

Mr. Tice worked at the heart of the mill, in the pit, where glowing molten steel drifted overhead in 340-ton ladles, then roared out of 3½-inch holes. He excelled in his area of work and was crew chief to six employees. Everyone says Mr. Tice enjoyed his work and took pride in what he did. It was not an easy job. The intense heat and the physical nature of the job tax workers physically and mentally, but Mr. Tice was a true steelworker, never complaining and always doing what he was asked.

After many layoffs at Weirton Steel and the closure of the hot end, Mr. Tice was relocated to the tin mill, but he happily accepted this assignment because he was one of those who would still have a job after another massive layoff. With the new job came many new stresses and worries. Mr. Tice had only 2 weeks to master the new machinery and technology; the tin mill was more technologically advanced and was a place that required new skills and processes. At age 51, this new, high-tech job posed a real challenge for Mr. Tice. The stress continued to mount and Mr. Tice began to feel inferior, as his friends report, looking back on his last few months of life.

Mr. Tice worried that the new management of Weirton would not tolerate a slow learning curve. He worried that if he didn't pick up his new craft quickly enough that he would be fired. In the end, friend and family pointed to some negative reinforcement and a general feeling of inadequacy on Mr. Tice's part. This steelworker of two-plus decades worried that if he didn't catch on quickly enough he wouldn't be able to provide for his family or allow them the opportunities they deserved—worries that anyone who cares for a family can understand. Larry Tice was a family man to his last days.

This hardship and uncertainty, along with his constant pressure and concern for his family's welfare, ultimately led to him taking his own life. Mr. Tice's widow, Mary, is now only left to wonder what was so inescapable. Mary spoke with Larry over the phone moments before his death and he told her he had 'screwed up,' though he did not elaborate further. At home, Larry hung up the telephone. When Mary tried calling back, there was no answer. She then drove home, though it was too late.

I stand before you today to ask that Larry Tice's story be remembered, along with the ongoing struggle of all steelworkers. Many ask why we in steel States fight so hard for our steel jobs, and it is because of stories like Larry Tice's that touch our hearts. It is so that no more steelworkers will suffer the agony Mr. Tice endured and

which conquered him. We work to ensure that fair trade conditions exist so no more families find themselves agonizing as a loved one worries about their livelihood and ability to provide for their family. The steel industry is very important to the prosperity of our State and is something that touches many West Virginians' lives and our country. My deepest sympathy goes out to the Tice family.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 383. To designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Route, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 971. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects in Connecticut, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1215. An act to provide for the implementation of a Green Chemistry Research and Development Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1344. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1472. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 167 East 124th Street in New York, New York, as the "Tito Puente Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1711. An act to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1796. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico for study for potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail, or both, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2069. An act to authorize the exchange of certain land in Grand and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2110. An act to provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2679. To amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that extorts money from State and local governments, and the Federal Government, and inhibits such governments' constitutional actions under the first, tenth, and fourteenth amendments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3534. An act to designate the Piedras Blancas Light Station and the surrounding public land as an Outstanding Natural Area to be administered as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3606. An act to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3626. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of enlarging the Arthur V. Watkins Dam Weber Basin Project, Utah, to provide additional water for the Weber Basin Project to fulfill the purposes for which that project was authorized; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3871. An act to authorize the Secretary of Interior to convey to The Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc., certain Federal land associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Nebraska, to be used as an historical interpretive site along the trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3961. An act to authorize the National Park Service to pay for services rendered by subcontractors under a General Services Administration Indefinite Deliver Indefinite Quantity Contract issued for work to be completed at the Grand Canyon National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4275. An act to amend Public Law 106-348 to extend the authorization for establishing a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4382. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain land in Clark County, Nevada, for use by the Nevada National Guard; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4545. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Los Angeles County Water Supply Augmentation Demonstration Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4720. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Gateway Drive in Lincoln, California, as the "Beverly J. Wilson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4750. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4766. To amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide for the revitalization of Native American languages through Native American language immersion programs; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 4772. An act to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges under the United States Constitution have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies or other government officials or entities acting under color of State law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4789. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4844. To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require each individual who desires to vote in an election for Federal office to provide the appropriate election official with a government-issued photo identification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 4846. To authorize grants for contributions toward the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4876. An act to ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 4942. An act to establish a capability and office to promote cooperation between entities of the United States and its allies in the global war on terrorism for the purpose of engaging in cooperative endeavors focused on the research, development, and commercialization of high-priority technologies intended to detect, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against acts of terrorism and other high consequence events and to address the homeland security needs of Federal, State, and local governments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4981. An act to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5016. An act to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5079. To update the management of Oregon water resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5108. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1213 East Houston Street in Cleveland, Texas, as the "Lance Corporal Robert A. Martinez Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5136. An act to establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5313. An act to reserve a small percentage of the amounts made available to the Secretary of Agriculture for the farmland protection program to fund challenge